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Honorable Mentions

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HONORABLE MENTIONS

A Publication of the PSU Honors College
Public Relations Committee

1. LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Honors College!!

Another wonderful academic year has come to a close and I am very proud of the students for their contributions in and out of the classroom, both here on campus and in the community at large. The students have done a great job representing the mission of the Honors College as they continue to excel academically and in the area of service.



Highlighted by the creation of the Pitt Project, a smaller version of the Big Event, Honors College students engaged in numerous community service projects this year and I am so pleased that they understand the importance of helping those less fortunate than themselves and giving their time and energy to make Pittsburgh a better place.

Honors College students have also served as leaders in countless student organizations, clubs, and activities this year and they make PSU a better place by their dedication and involvement in these important leadership roles.

I am proud to be the Director of the Honors College and I value and respect the members of the group for all that they do for Pittsburgh State University.

Dr. Craig Fuchs
Director of Honors College

2. ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: MARY JO MOTT/SWANN

Mary Jo Swann graduated from Pittsburgh State University in the fall of 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis in Mathematics. She maintained an active membership in the Honors College Association throughout her collegiate career by participating in homecoming events, social events among the group, and living with fellow HCA members. Mary Jo taught Mathematics at Free State High School in Lawrence, KS for a year before becoming a full time mother to her two blessings, Wesley and Bethany. After another year, she plans to return to the classroom to continue spreading her love of mathematics with high school students.

Swann credits her success in the HCA to surrounding herself with peers working towards excellence. She was encouraged by the constant advance towards excellence on the part of her peers and the consistent support which she received from them. HCA always pushed Mary Jo to be the best that she could be, and she continues to see the benefits of that dedication and perseverance in every aspect of her life.

To the current and future members of the HCA, Swann first recommends that students be as involved as possible. To truly experience the benefits of membership in the HCA, one must experience what the association has to offer. Secondly, she encourages students to use their blessings. We have all been given our individual talents for a reason – find that reason and put them to good use! Finally, Mary Jo hopes that students recognize what a blessing their college years are and that students do not wish away a season just because it is difficult. Membership in the HCA and the time spent at Pittsburgh State University will provide enough opportunities in the future to make the trying times worth the extra effort.

By: Alex Mott

3. FEATURED STUDENT: HEATHER GLENN

Heather Glenn is a Freshman in the honors college and a track superstar. She is a pole vaulter, and a very good one to put it modestly. Heather placed first in the MIAA conference meet, then followed up her conference performance with a 4th place finish at the Division II National Championships. At the conference meet, she beat the previous Pitt State Women's Pole Vault record when she jumped an unprecedented 12 foot and 6 ½ inches. Her major is Nursing and she likes to study and gets stressed out when she doesn't have time after her five hour practices.

By: Gavin Houser



4. INTERVIEW WITH DR. FUCHS

This year will mark the graduation of the first class to have spent their entire college career in The Honors College under the direction of Dr. Craig Fuchs. One of the members of the Senior Class, Rocky Williamson, sat down to interview the director about the success of the organization over the past few years.

1) What drove you to make the HCA student led and do you feel we have accomplished this over the last 4 years?

When I took over as director, one of my main priorities was to try to get the students engaged in The Honors College. I did not want them to be passive members on a roster, but rather students who really cared about The Honors College and wanted to work together to make not only the HCA, but the entire campus and community a better place. I wanted to try to help create an intrinsic motivation within the students to have a great HCA that they could be proud of being a part of. There is no doubt that this has been successfully accomplished. I am now serving as a true advisor for the organization. The students are organizing things, running meetings, having vision, and taking pride in the group. Mission accomplished!!

2) What do you feel have been the biggest accomplishments of the HCA in the last 4 years?

I am very pleased with the community service aspect. I really want the HCA students to understand the importance of giving to those less fortunate than themselves and I think we are able to do that through the work of that committee. I am also very pleased with the Peer Mentor program as I think it provides a much needed support group for the freshman as they transition to college life. It also provides some continued connection to the honors college for those sophomores who serve as they continue to be involved in The Honors College past their first year. Finally, I am pleased with the overall meetings that we have. [We have] a good attendance record and a very efficient meeting structure so we can get important information out and move onto to committee work.

3) What do you feel we still have to accomplish within the HCA?

I would like to begin our work on continuing to try to keep upper class students engaged. I think it has gotten better each year as far as the number of upper classmen who attend meetings and are engaged, but it is still primarily a freshman and sophomore group so we need to keep working on ways to keep the older students connected and concerned about the success of the HCA.

By: Rocky Williamson and Dr. Fuchs

5. THE BIG EVENT

The Honors College joined many organizations throughout campus in giving back to the Pittsburgh community by participating in The Big Event. The Big Event is an annual service event that matches student organizations with members of the community who have service needs. Over forty members of The Honors College participated, helping complete five projects. The projects included raking leaves, cleaning gutters, picking up sticks, and other yard work. When asked why he decided to do The Big Event, freshman Gavin Houser said, "Community service is important because it helps us to give back to others who have given us support." The Honors College will be hosting a campus wide community service event, The Pitt Project, during the fall semester for the second consecutive year.

By: Austin Masters

